

Appl. No.: 10/773,828
Amdt. Dated: ____ December 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed 12/08/06

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend and cancel claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a rigid external frame having upper and lower substantially identical rigid ring ends and a plurality of substantially straight and rigid longitudinal connecting means;

a plurality of wooden side panels fitted circumferentially into the inside area of said frame;

a plurality of wooden end panels butted against the ends of said wooden side panels thereby providing a substantially leak-proof barrel; and

wherein said upper and lower rigid ring ends have a plurality of holes to receive said connecting means, the position and number of said holes and the number of said connecting means and said side panels predetermined to establish the number of barrel sides.

2. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said wooden end panels ~~upper and lower ring ends~~ have a plurality of holes corresponding in to receive said connecting means, the position and number with said plurality of holes in said upper and lower rigid ring ends. ~~of said holes and the number of said connecting means and said side panels predetermined to establish the number of barrel sides.~~

3. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~ wherein ~~during assembly~~ said wooden side panels press against each other and against said connecting means resulting in outward pressure against said connecting means thereby to ~~create~~ provide a leak proof circumferential portion of said barrel. ~~said leak-proof barrel.~~

4. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~ wherein said connecting means are ~~metal members and~~ positioned in said holes of said rigid ring ends to withstand said outward pressure.

5. (currently amended) The wine barrel ~~of claim assembly~~ of claim 1 wherein said side panels are generally planar and replaceable and are reversible ~~include reversibility~~ to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.

6. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein said rigid ring ends are generally circular rings and said frame is ~~of metal and is~~ reusable for replacement ~~[[and]]~~ of said side panels and said end panels.

7. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 6 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein said rigid ring ends have a multisided configuration ~~and said frame is of metal and is reusable for replacement of said side panels and said end panels.~~

8. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 3 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein said side panels are complementary and at least one of said side panels is wedge shaped effecting side pressure to an adjacent panel having an angular side ~~panels~~ during assembly.

9. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 1 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein said connecting means are straight ~~metal~~ members with configuration taken from the group including multisided and circular.

10. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a plurality of longitudinal connecting members;

a pair of substantially identical generally circular rigid ring ends ~~end-rings~~ having holes for receiving and locating said ~~[[[a]]]~~ plurality of longitudinal connecting members connected to form a rigid external frame;

wooden end panels having holes corresponding in position and number with said plurality of holes in said upper and lower rigid ring ends

said end-rings including end wood panels;

wooden side panels located circumferentially in the interior area of said frame;

said connecting members ~~means~~ including means for interchangeably capturing and securing said wooden side ~~wood~~ panels ~~circumferentially in the interior area of said frame;~~ and

wherein during assembly said wooden end panels are positioned between said circular end rings and ends of said wooden side panels whereby in conjunction with said connecting

members pressure is applied to both ends of said wooden side panels to create a liquid tight barrel.

~~assembly of said rings including said end panels wherein pressure is applied to the ends of said side wood panels, and said connecting means including said side wood panels provides a liquid tight container with an all wooden interior; and~~

~~wherein said side panels are substantially planar and selectively replaceable within the interior of said rigid frame.~~

11. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 10 wherein said wooden side panels are complementary and at least one component of said wooden side ~~wood~~ panels is wedge shaped providing side pressure to an adjacent wooden component side panel having an angular side panels to effect a liquid tight barrel.

12. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim ~~assembly of claim~~ 10 wherein said wooden side panels and said wooden end panels are replaceable including reversible replacement to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.

13. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 10 including gasket means interposed between said wooden end ~~wood~~ panels and said wooden side panels.

14. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 ~~13~~ further including hardware means for assembling said frame, said wooden end panels, said gasket, and said wooden side panels to form a substantially liquid tight barrel and wherein said connecting means are straight rigid metal members

15. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 wherein the configuration of said connecting means is taken from the group including multisided and circular.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)